**Library Management System.**

The process of choosing an appropriate library management system for this teenage Literature collection was complicated due to major shifts in the market for library management software which have taken place over the last decade.

The library management system is the software program used to manage a libraries’ collection. It generally consists of interlinked databases and modules which contain list of authority and bibliographic records which ensure standardisation across the system, records relating to specific items in the collection, user records tracking loans, and functional features which link and update the databases when items are loaned and tracks information relating to acquisitions and ordering of new materials. For the teenage literature collection choosing an appropriate system was made difficult not by the particulars of the collection, but by the range of systems on the market and the difficulty in critically assessing they’re strengths and weaknesses.

Until relatively recently the market for LMS was dominated by several large software companies offering high quality but expensive programs. These include the Millennium system designed by Innovative Interfaces, and the Talis system offered by the company of the same name (formerly Birmingham Libraries Co-operative Mechanisation Project). These systems have reached a high level of maturity and are supported by the parent companies which offer support during the installation and process and continue to do so after the product has been installed. The main drawbacks of these systems are they’re cost and inflexibility (Vasupongayya & Keawneam, 2011). As they are closed source commercial products the initial and ongoing costs are high and the software cannot be modified locally to suit the customers needs. An alternative to these systems was developed in the form of open source library management software, which offers a cheaper and more flexible platform. Open source library management software has developed rapidly over the past few years. This software can be modified by the customer after purchase and can be distributed freely within an organisation without incurring extra cost as is the case with proprietary systems. The main drawback of open source systems is that they are more difficult to install and come with less back up support than closed systems. This situation has changed over the past few years with many open source software development companies collaborating with local software companies to create a support network for their products. This has made open source a cheap and viable option for small and medium sized libraries offering huge savings. In one study it was estimated that for a collection of C. 15,000 books the initial outlay for a proprietary LMS would be $10,700, for installation and the first year of support and $2,500 annually thereafter. The equivalent cost for an open source system would be $3,859 for installation and $1,429 annually thereafter (Riewe, 2008).

Taking into account these recent developments in open source LMS software the team decided to adopt an open source system for the teenage literature collection. Choosing which open source system to adopt was not as difficult as the initial decision to choose open source software as there is currently only one system which offers all the features needed plus the aid of support company. The Koha LMS developed by Katipo Communications Ltd. Was launched in 1999 and has been updated several times since with the current version 4.8 being launched in 2011. It fully supports the traditional functions of an LMS system and offers a degree of flexibility which will allow the library staff and users to modify the system. This flexibility will be particularly advantageous as it will allow staff to improve the usability of the system making it more attractive for the planned target audience. The Koha system supports features which allow users to comment on and rate materials they have used as well as allowing them to maintain personal profiles with their favorites saved for future consultation.

One of the major obstacles to the adoption of open source LMS is the question of system maintenance in the absence of a large supporting proprietary software company. Over the past few years several independent software management companies have entered the market offering support services for these systems. For technical support the library will rely on PTFS Europe which launched its support service for Koha in 2008 and has been favorably reviewed by libraries using its service (Bissels & Chandler, 2010). PTFS offers the full range of services including installation, training and ongoing support services. Additionally the developers Katipo inc. maintain close contact with institutions using their software and is quick to respond to customer requirements.

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